

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary**

**ROS Watersheds - Cropland**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> ROS Watersheds - Cropland		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Project Location	
1. Based upon GIS data, are one or more land units in this EQIP application located in a surface water source protection area (SW SPA) for a public drinking water supply?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Based upon GIS data, are one or more land units in this EQIP application located in a groundwater source protection area (GW SPA), also referred to as a wellhead protection area, for a public drinking water supply?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will this EQIP application correct deficiencies in agricultural waste or water quality oriented land management practice associated with one or more land units located in a watershed containing an agriculturally stressed segment of water identified on the State of Vermont 303(d) list of impaired waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Percent of Farm's annual or rotated cropped fields enrolled in the program, answer yes to 4, 5 or 6.	
4. 1-25%	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. 26-50%	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. 51% or greater	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Percent of fields enrolled in the application that are a high or very high CSA, answer yes to 7, 8 or 9 if applicable	
7. 1-25%	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. 26-50%	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. 51% or greater	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Gully Erosion	
10. Will a grassed waterway or grade stabilization structure be installed through this application to address a gully erosion resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Erosion	
11. Will the applicatin provide for implementation of agronomic or other cropland management practices that will provide increased soil reduction benefit, beyond current management, to a minimum of 75% of the HEL field acres within the application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Filter Strips	
12. Will a filter strip be installed through this application as identified in a Land Treatment Plan, resource assessment, visual assessment or as needed under State AAPs?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Phosphorus Removal System	
13. Will a phosphorus removal system be installed through this application as identified in a Land Treatment Plan, resource assessment, or visual assessment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Constructed Wetland	
14. Will a constructed wetland be installed through this application as identified in a Land Treatment Plan resource assessment, or visual assessment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Quality and Water Quality	
15. Will the application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to water quality, excessive sediment in surface water and/or water quality, nutrients in surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Cropland Management System of Practices - Answer YES to question 16, 17 or 18 if applicable.	
16. Does the application include one of the following practices listed in this funding pool's guidance document?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. Does the application include two practices listed in this funding pool's guidance document?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. Does the application include three or more practices listed in this funding pool's guidance document?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Conserved Land	
19. Is this land already conserved or approved for funding under ACEP-ALE and the application will address water quality and/or soil quality resource concerns?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Franklin & Grand Isle LWG	
1. Does this application reduce sheet and rill soil erosion by the installation of agronomic practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does this application improve soil condition by increasing organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does this application reduce sediment or nutrient loss from the edge of fields?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does this application make a change in management to increase organic matter or reduce erosion through the adoption of seldom used practices such as cross slope tillage, reduced tillage, strip cropping or the incorporation of grass waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does this application include converting cropland to grass for more than 5 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Lamoille LWG	
6. Does this application include going above a 35 foot buffer along waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does this application make a change in management to increase organic matter or reduce erosion through the adoption of seldom used practices such as cross slope tillage, reduced tillage and No-tillage, strip cropping or the incorporation of grass waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does this application reduce soil erosion by the installation of agronomic practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does this application address sheet, rill and/or gully erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does this application include converting continuous corn (10 years or more) to long term pasture or grazing (512) and or Cover Crop (340)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Orleans LWG	
11. Is this application within the Memphremagog watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Does this application include practices to reduce streambank erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Does this applications included practices that improve soil quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Does this application include practices that reduce soil erosion on the field?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Does this application include practices that reduce manure runoff from the field(s)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
White River LWG	
16. Will this application include practices that install grass filter strips or riparian forested buffers to control erosion and nutrient runoff?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. Will this application include practices that address soil compaction?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. Will this application include practices where nutrients are distributed according to the nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. Will this application include a suite of practices that manage nitrogen and other agricultural related nutrients into the Connecticut River watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. Does this application include practices that will improve soil quality through enhanced levels of	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

management such as multi-species cover crop and no-till seeding?	
Ottawaquechee LWG	
21. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce nitrogen loading in any surface water in the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. Will this application include multi-species cover crop and/or residue management to improve soil health?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
23. Does this application include a field border, riparian buffer, and/or a filter strip for improved wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and/or reduced soil erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
24. Will this application include crop rotation, cover crop, and/or residue management within 50 feet of a blue line stream or conveyance to a blue line stream to address pest management concerns, reduce soil erosion, and/or improve water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
25. Does this application include practices which will improve availability and/or diversity of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 200 miles)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Poultney Mettawee LWG	
26. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment; and/or will it include composting to address a water quality and/or soil health concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
27. Will this application address soil erosion or other water quality concerns occurring within 200' of a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion or other water quality concerns impacting a critical resource area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
28. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 50 miles)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
29. Will this application reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management strategies, or will it reduce the use of nutrients through nutrient management plan strategies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
30. Will this application address recommendations of the South Lake Champlain Tactical Basin Plan or the Lake Champlain TMDL?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Rutland LWG	
31. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment; and/or will it include composting to address a water quality and/or soil health concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
32. Will this application address soil erosion or other water quality concerns occurring within 100' of a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion or other water quality concerns impacting a critical resource area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
33. Will this application reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management strategies, or will it reduce the use of nutrients through nutrient management plan strategies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
34. Will this application include buffers specified as a need in river corridor plan/other water quality management plans/ identified through monitoring and assessment, or will a buffer will be installed for improved wildlife habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
35. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing ephemeral gully erosion in situations where financial assistance has not previously been provided to address this concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Caledonia LWG	
36. Does this application include practices that increase soil organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
37. Does the application include practices that reduce nutrient runoff?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
38. Does the application address soil erosion by applying crop rotation, conversion to permanent grassland or cover crop that is drill seeded?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
39. Does the application include practices that will create a buffer to waterways and streams?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
40. Does this application include practices that will reduce soil disturbance on tilled cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Essex LWG	
41. Does this application include practices that increase soil organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
42. Does the application include practices that reduce nutrient runoff?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
43. Does the application address soil erosion by applying crop rotation, conversion to permanent	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

grassland or cover crop that is drill seeded?	
44. Does the application include practices that will create a buffer to waterways and streams?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
45. Does this application include practices that will reduce soil disturbance on tilled cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Bennington LWG</b>	
46. Will this application address soil erosion or other water quality concerns occurring within 100' of a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion or other water quality concerns impacting a critical resource area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
47. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment; and/or will it include composting to address a water quality and/or soil health concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
48. Does this application include a buffer as recommended by a watershed, river corridor, or other plan addressing water quality issues, or will a buffer be included for improved wildlife habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
49. Does this application provide for the improved management of nutrients and/or pesticides?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
50. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing ephemeral gully erosion in situations where financial assistance has not previously been provided to address this concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Windham LWG</b>	
51. Will this application include practices that help reduce nitrogen loading into surface waters that feed into the Connecticut River?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
52. Will this application address soil erosion or other water quality concerns occurring within 100' of a blue line stream or conveyance to a blue line stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
53. Will this application include buffers in order to enhance surface water quality and/or improve wildlife habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
54. Will this application improve soil health through the implementation of cover crop, composting, crop rotation, and/or reduced tillage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
55. Will this application include practices that will improve nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Winooski LWG</b>	
56. Will this application provide benefits to soil quality through any of the following: cover crops (340), improved tillage practices (345 or 329), or seeding to perennial forage crops (512)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
57. Does this application provide assurances for the creation, enhancement, or protection of cropland buffers?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
58. Will this project help the applicant to reduce their use of fertilizers, chemicals, or pesticides?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
59. Will this application reduce erosion from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a watershed identified on the State of Vermont 303(d) list of impaired waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
60. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing ephemeral gully erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Otter Creek LWG</b>	
61. Will this EQIP application reduce soil erosion and enhance soil quality or address critical source areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
62. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing field borders-386?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
63. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing ephemeral gully erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
64. As a component of an IPM system, will this EQIP application result in reduced pesticide use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
65. Will this project help the applicant to reduce their use of fertilizers?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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**Ranking Score**

Efficiency:
Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

**Final Ranking Score:**

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

**NRCS Representative:**

**Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for  
Contract Development unless required by State policy:**

**Signature Date:**

**Signature Date:**